## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 L-03 COME-00 OPIC-03 XMB-02 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FEAE-00 EUR-12 EA-10 /070 W

R 292045Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2510

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7327

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, AR

SUBJECT: \$250 MILLION PRIVATE LOAN PACKAGE FOR YPF

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT MINISTRY OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ WILL TRAVEL TO NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 29 TO ATTEND SIGNING OF LETTER OF INTENT FOR \$250 MILLION LOAN PACKAGE FOR YPF, THE STATE-OWNED PETROLEUM COMPANY. THE LOAN WILL BE MADE BY A CONSORTIUM OF TEN BANKS (SIX FROM U.S., TWO FROM CANADA, ONE EACH FROM JAPAN AND GERMANY). THE U.S. BANKS INCLUDE WELLS FARGO (AGENT FOR THE TRANSACTION), BANKERS TRUST, MANUFACTURERS HANOVER, CHEMICAL BANK, UNITED CALIFORNIA, AND MORGAN GUARANTY. THE CREDIT HAS A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS, WITH 30 MONTHS GRACE. THE INTEREST RATE IS 1.5 PERCENT OVER LIBOR FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS AND 1.625 PERCENT OVER LIBOR FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS. \$150 MILLION OF THE CREDIT WILL BE USED TO CONSOLIDATE AND EXTEND THE TERM OF A PORTION OF YPF'S CURRENT SHORT-TERM DEBT (95 PERCENT OF YPF'S DEBT HAD A TERM OF LESS THAN 180 DAYS) AND \$100 MILLION FOR DRILLING.

2. LOCAL BANKERS TRUST AND WELLS FARGO REPS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN LOAN PACKAGE. THEY INDICATED THAT SEVERAL OTHER U.S. BANKS, INCLUDING CITIBANK, WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN SELECTED BY GOA TO FORM PART OF CONSORTIUM. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. COMMENT: THIS LOAN ILLUSTRATES THE STRONG CREDIT RATING BEING GIVEN BY PRIVATE FOREIGN BANKS TO ARGENTINA -- A RATING WHICH BANKING SOURCES INDICATE ALLOWS THEM TO OFFER ARGENTINA BETTER TERMS THAN THOSE FOR BRAZIL AND MEXICO. ARGENTINA NOW FINDS ITSELF IN THE ENVIABLE POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO PICK ANC CHOOSE AMONG ITS CREDITORS AND IN THE PROCESS OBTAIN

EXCEPTIONALLY FAVORABLE TERMS. WITH A VIEW TOWARD ESTABLISHING A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOA, US BANKS ARE EXPRESSING INCREASING INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN BUENOS AIRES. CHAPLIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, AR, US, YPF

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